

A Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Town Hall. The following members were present.

Joseph Denneen, Chairman  
William Ryan, Vice chairman  
Catherine Winston, Clerk  
Al DeNapoli  
Michael Caron

Also present:  
Michael Boynton, Town Administrator  
James Johnson, Asst. Town Administrator

Mr. Denneen called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m. Legislators, Senator Timilty, Representatives; Rogers, Kafka and Ross

Mr. Denneen introduced the legislators. We have invited them this evening to say hello and to beg for money. Ask them to come up and say a few words.

Senator Timilty, we know the issues are dire it affects all 351 are faced with the same budget problems. We are well aware of it. Shift in federal priorities, we have our work cut out for us. In this budget cycle will allow us to look at the costs that are in everyone's communities. We know there is a glimmer of hope that the economy has been rising. I think the conversation with ourselves and the boards has made us well aware of the situation. I know you are 2 million short in your budget preparation. We have done certain things over the past years to improve our economy. Understand how tough it is for us in the state government where the Federal government has not.

Representative Kafka, thank you for the invitation. We are fully aware of the situation that you are in. The Board has made us aware the school committee and the superintendent of schools has made us aware. We have met as a delegation to see what we can do for the Town. Mr. Boynton always takes the opportunity to make me aware of the situation. We are ready to help us much as we can given the constraints we have.

Representative Ross, I am the other Freshman here this is my second budget and seems more challenging. This town is unique as you have 5 members that represent you. I think last year was a prime example. I had to appeal with my delegation to go against the Governor to get that \$500,000 for you last year. I think we are an effective delegation. Creative ways to not have such an impact on you. I look forward to working with you.

Representative Rogers, you said you are begging for money. We want to help out. It is a pleasure to work with this delegation. Robert Coughlin understands as he was a Selectmen he really wanted to be here. I think people expect me to talk about only the good things that Democrats do. Representative Ross is very modest, to say no to your Governor so Walpole could get that money is something to say. Representative Kafka alluded to difficult times the State is under. We are still struggling with a billion dollar deficit in 05. The ways we can help you is through more Chapter 70 money, more lottery assistance. We have a cap on the lottery revenues. By Statue will be fully phased out by 2009. Further phase out, 40 million dollar increase in the form of lottery assistance. The State is depending upon the money above the cap to handle our money situation. These discussions will continue. Did speak with Chairman Dellario, the agree upon a number with the Senate. Hopefully, 18.8 billion or 19 billion which is a fairly good number for the State. That would be good for cities and town.

I speak personally as I have family in Walpole. Your strife that you articulate to us is ours as well. We hope that in the wake of the Hancock decision we can do more in Chapter 70. There is no telling what that formula will be for the town. We are looking at other forms of relief. Energy relief is something we are pursuing. Looking at early resolution. Something that is being considered. Whatever that number is we should let cities and towns now. Broad overview of where we are as a State.

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Mr. Ryan the School Dept will have something to say. We did put a little list together.

Mandatory Seatbelt law, reduce the number of injuries. Safer travel. Seatbelts to save life's. We support that.

Excise tax on fuel. Bill 4809, would exempt towns from paying taxes on fuel. Such a measure would provide a great savings. He is aware that Senator Timilty supports that. Senator Timilty seems to be a reasonable measure. Probably a savings of 10-15,000. We do get a rebate on the federal government tax.

Sales tax on Alcohol, never added to the sales tax. I know Marion Walsh, is trying to increase the tax on alcohol. You are not adding a new tax. All your doing is taking a product and adding it to the sales tax. You are talking about 60-80 million dollars.

We have asked are departments to look at the fees, some fees have a cap. Class 1 license, \$200, we can not charge more than 200. We can't charge more than \$50 on Victualler's license. Sometimes we are restricted by the State. Remove all fee ceilings. States would have to live within the Emerson Test.

Mr. Ryan thanked Representative Rogers for the \$500,000. Ask for your support on that.

Representative Rogers we will continue to fight for that money. When it first came out we told the town this would be a one time. We realize in our continual fight for this money, the town continues to rely on this as continuing revenue. We owe the citizens of Walpole something to have the Prison. We will fight again for it. We are confident we will succeed. But we can not guarantee.

Nancy Gallivan, Chairman of the School Committee wants to explain that we have a large problem. I have the honor of telling people that the gap is 2.9 million dollar gap. After we talked about SPED. We feel that the likelihood that we have some special needs in the next budget. We feel there are 3 things. SPED, large increase in health insurance costs and decrease in state aid. We have not recovered from the cuts of the past 3 years. We cut positions 3 years ago, we are now dependent on 1 million in fees. These cuts will be about doing a basic responsible job. We feel we will have to layoff 54 people. That is the size of an entire building. We are truly begging for your help. W/o help from the state local aid. Keeping our High School accredited. The reason I point this out, is that there are state mandates. We did some analysis where Walpole is with funding. Our local aid in 1995 looked at what happened to it over the next 10 years.

I continued where I think where the State was going. We are now 3.3 million dollars short. What has happened to Chapter 70? What I have noticed is the state has recovered to 2003 funding, we have not gone back to that. Walpole has not gotten an equal share of the little that there was to distribute. We talked about last night to cut 2.1 million dollars. We have to pay attention and other towns that are like us. I know you have important competing needs. As our Reps, local aid is the one and only thing that we need from you. Practical ways, uncapping of the lottery, reform chapter 70, not talking about doing a good job any longer. Realistic costs into the formula. Modify formula. To have them be realistic. Promise that was put in place is off the mark at this point. We will provide you with the examples. We will do the homework for you.

Special education circuit breaker, it is important to remind people that people from Walpole went and testified for that legislation, we went it was difficult, we stood up and said we knew we could do a responsible job. Use to be a 50/50 cost share. I was not convinced that was going to help us. I don't know how practical it is but consider SPED transportation. I really feel that if we have this cut we are going to be asking you to support us in cutting some testing etc. We will not be able to do everything. We know that you are committed to us.

Superintendent Smith explained that the School Department has been struggling for 3 years. We have been in a very difficult budget. I want to tell you, that we have a

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different year ahead of us. When we talk about needing 2.9 million. Town and schools are in the same place. It is not possible we are already strapped. We have imposed 1 million dollars fee. We are not fighting with Town Departments. Anything you can do to help is critical to us.

John Desmond, from the point of view it seems like the legislators are looking at health reform. At the High School we are seeing class sizes in the 30's. Special education is running 26% of the budget. The cost is going up. Anything you can do to add Special ed transportation cost. SPED could be capped at some level. If you can not restore us. If you can do something for us it would be really appreciated.

Tom Jalkut, the Finance Committee does not have a presentation. I would say to our Representatives that Walpole gets the maximum utility of every dollar it receives. Do a very good job with the money that is received. We are committed to watching the money. If we have to cut, we will do that in a fair manor.

Mr. Boynton explained that before getting in to a lot of detail. It is important to recognize the efforts of these men. They make our live easier with the things that they have done to date. The PWED project, the 500,000, the E. Walpole fire safety grant, I cant think of the number of bridge and road projects. The work to help out with Route 1. When I look at the state revenue picture. 3-4 years, recurring nightmare, of Celluci, looking to cut taxes. MMA was concerned with the state economy, with that passage of the tax cut, than 911 happened. We still need the additional revenue. 6 years on that issue and we have seen the revenue decrease. Walpole suffered. The Boards and Committees in this town were good soldiers. To be back at the same table with even more devastating cuts. Just once I want to see extra money.

We need you to look at a local mandate freeze. Stop having departments from creating mandates and regulations to the town. We need to have you look at Health reform. Kind of crafting health insurance costs. We came part of the larger consortium. When you are restricted to a 2 ½ increase. Our increase is about \$980,000. Every bit of addition growth is going. We need the ability to work with the unions.

Prison mitigation, is a need. They system is broken. The MMA is having their annual conference. New revenue sharing ideas. The mass tax foundation. Income tax allows those to pay on what they earn. There are people in this town that have a challenge in paying their tax bill every year. Everyone here is working together. We want to thank you for working hard.

Mr. DeNapoli wants to commend our Representatives for the fine efforts they have given us and the State. Their doors are always open. They are always there. Simple guy and look at simple numbers. If you compare numbers 2003-2007. Tax levy's up 7.9 million, revenues from other funds \$400,000. That is local increase of 8.8 million over 4 years. From the State the funding has gone down on 850,000. Leaving the Town with just less than 1 million a year to deal with every other growth issue in town. Dealing with utilities, added services, sped, state mandates and easy to see that we are falling behind. I think you have heard the cry as to what the State can do, local aid has to be a priority. Educated work force.

Going back recurring nightmare income tax cut, some people are talking about decrease in taxes. I hope that process will not get to far in the State house. State revenues are good this year. They will decrease over the next several years. I thank you all for coming and doing a fine job.

Mr. Caron would like to ask them to respond again. We went thought the budget and looked at the line items. We looked at two areas, health care and local aid. It is a complex issue. Local aid, I have one request please restore local aid back to 2003 figures. That does not get us back to the 2.9 deficit. 30% of the budget is SPED. We are getting hammered on Special ed. Restore local aid for those, Chapter70 etc. I believe it is a policy statement, it represents the Town of Walpole, I believe we can help you. Thank You for everything. Structural realignment. We can try to keep taxing our residents, but I do not think they will put up with it.

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8:30 Leo McCormack, Permanent Building

Fifteen years ago I was going to serve but I served on the ZBA, Building Code appeals Committee, More recently I served on the Municipal Facilities Study Committee. I have 35 years experience in the architectural. I have my own firm in Walpole.

Mr. Denneen feels he certainly has the credentials to serve on this committee. Mr. Boynton watched Leo in action and he is top notch, I think he would be a great addition to the committee.

MOTION moved by Mr. Ryan to appoint Leo McCormack as a member of the Permanent Building Committee, seconded by Ms. Winston, VOTED 5-0-0

8:35 p.m. Betsy Dyer, Conservation Commission

Ms. Dyer is currently a non voting member on the Board of Health. I think I can do more good if I could vote. PHD in Biology, Professor at Wheaton College. I have a good knowledge base. I think I would like to be a voting member on the Board.

Mr. Caron thanked her for applying, I think the CC is one that is in the background, but it is very important.

MOTION moved by Mr. Ryan to appoint Betsy Dyer to the Conservation Commission, seconded by Mr. DeNapoli, VOTED 4-0-1 (CW abstained)

8:45 p.m. Friends of the Walpole Community Athletic complex (FWCAC)

Joe Lavita appeared before the Board to inform them what their group is doing. They raise private funds and grants to renovate a track and field complex. Have a 501 ©(3) non profit organization. We have raised \$100,000. Our fundraising will begin on January 16<sup>th</sup>. We have a professional engineer and architect. We have hired JJA Sports. They deal with recreation and sports facilities. They are acting as our agent. Our goal, to have High School fall sports to be on schedule. We are requesting that you reallocated the balance of \$29,676 of unspent money set aside for the design and engineering for Turco Bleachers for use toward additional engineering and soils testing. We are also asking to have a banner installed in Walpole. We are requesting permission to gain access to the High School field complex to begin work via a license. It is very important. We need that access sooner rather than later.

Like to be able to take care of in kind services that are willing to donate to see this happen. Later we would like guidance as naming rights and the possibly for a large contributor.

We would like permission to have the town purchase specific materials. We want to get this up and running.

Mr. Ryan noted that they are asking to have access to the High School field. Those contractors would have to be bonded. The naming rights, that field has a name. Are you planning to rename that field. Mr. Lavita explained It could be Turco Field at (Such and such complex). The entire complex could be after a generous donator. We would have to decide with the Boards guidance.

Mr. Boynton suggested that the access issue, in terms of quick engineering. I think you could grant access under the Director of public works. When it comes to construction, all of that would be build in to the license.

MOTION moved by Mr. DeNapoli, that the FWCAC have access to the High School under the Director of Public Works or designee for initial site and soil testing and engineering design, seconded by Ms. Winston, VOTED 5-0-0

Mr. Denneen explained that the money issue, we would need to take it to town meeting to get the funds.

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Mr. Ryan explained for the engineering and any testing will not interfere with any sports or functions that will be there.

Mr. Ryan stated that on the banner we could grant the request without a time period. If there were other organizations that want to use it that it come down at that time.

MOTION moved by Mr. Ryan to grant the display of the banner, seconded by Ms. Winston, VOTED 5-0-0

Ms. Winston asked if on the money, could we on the next meeting find out what might be left. Mr. Denneen stated that we need the money available for the bleachers. So we might have a balance at the Fall Town Meeting.

Mr. DeNapoli suggested putting an article on the STM if the bleachers are done. Just a hold position. They may be done three weeks earlier.

Mr. Ryan thinks it will be close. Mr. Denneen asked if that money be directed to another article. Or back in the general fund. Mr. Denneen would like to wait until the project done.

Mr. DeNapoli thinks they have moved full speed ahead. I stopped in to say hi to Jim Gordon in the Congressman's Office and I thanked him for what he has done. In talking to Jim he was going to check to see how soon those funds would be available. He was going to get right on that. I think he would like to see this letter. The Congressman said he hopes there is even more he can do.

9:10 p.m. OPEN FORUM

No one appeared for it.

1-4 Acceptance of Gift, Dunkin Donuts

MOTION moved by Mr. Ryan to accept the gift in the amount of \$300 from Dunkin Donuts for the Council on Aging, seconded by Mr. Caron, VOTED 5-0-0

1-5 Banner Request, Walpole Computer Fund Foundation

MOTION moved by Mr. Ryan to approve the Request to hang a banner from January 28 to February 11, seconded by Mr. DeNapoli, VOTED 5-0-0

#### Polices and Procedures

Mr. Denneen would like to see this Section 703 be created but leave it blank until we have additional committees that should be added.

The rest of it should be forwarded to the department heads. That would be round 2.

Ms Winston, can I ask a question on Section 703. Where did this come from? Mr. Boynton explained this is the one that was presented a year and half ago. Ms. Winston stated that Section 703-002 number 7. That was never discussed. The broker of record should not be a commissioner.

Mr. Denneen we were going to revisit this and any other possible Commission. We are not going to deal with this now. The important thing is to get this out to the department heads for their review.

Mr. Boynton did not pull any text out. I am not disagreeing with it. What came out a year and half ago. There were no changes from that. The text came from Mark Good.

MOTION moved by Mr. Ryan to approve the draft and forward the Polices and Procedures with the elimination of Section 703 and forward to department heads to review within 30 days seconded by Mr. Caron

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Mr. Caron questioned what kind of time frame are you looking at? Mr. Boynton would say it will take some time, it will take a few months. If 2 months we vote the manual. That we have an assessment of other committees.

VOTED 5-0-0

Wood Chipper Bid Award

MOTION moved by Mr. Ryan to award bid contract for one new and unused drum type wood chipper in the amount of 33,450, to Shelter Tree, Seconded by seconded by Mr. DeNapoli, VOTED 5-0-0

Town Administrators Update

Economic Development Grants officer position is open. Mr. McCue is resigning. We wish him well.

Fee Review; we are doing this now. Some interesting ideas.

Tobacco sting, three violation notices to Mimi, Main St Mobil and CVS. JD is there anyway we can keep tabs on them. These are permits issued by the BOH.

Heating usage, some savings in fuel consumption. 25,000 gallons under last year. The window replacement project has saved over 40% on fuel costs. We do have an issue at the High School they are monitoring it.

Meeting tomorrow morning, at looking at break downs in child sex offender laws. He has worked with police department. Want the Board to know and understand.

MMA Conference this weekend.

New Business: Jan 4<sup>th</sup> there was a hearing at Baker Hughes site. The documents pertaining to everything are at the Library. Twenty day period to make comment.

MOTION moved by Mr. Ryan I would like to follow up to them and Rep Coughlin thanking them for their attendance and highlighting our desires, seconded by Mr. DeNapoli, VOTED 5-0-0

## MINUTES

MOTION moved by Mr. Ryan to approve the minute of October 11, 2005, seconded by Mr. Caron, VOTED 5-0-0

MOTION moved by Mr. Ryan to approve the minutes of 10/17/05, seconded by Mr. Caron, VOTED 5-0-0

MOTION moved by Mr. Ryan to approve the minutes of 10/18/05, seconded by Mr. Caron, VOTED 4-0-1 (Mr. DeNapoli abstain)

MOTION moved by Mr. Ryan to approve the minutes of 10/24/05, seconded by Mr. Caron VOTED 5-0-0

MOTION moved by Mr. Ryan to approve the minutes of 11/1/05 seconded by Mr. DeNapoli, VOTED 4-0-1, (Mr. Caron abstained)

MOTION moved by Mr. Ryan to approve the minutes of executive session 11/1/05, seconded by Ms. Winston, VOTED 4-0-1 (MC abstained)

MOTION moved by Mr. Ryan to move into Executive Session to discuss litigation, seconded by Ms. Winston, VOTED 5-0-0 by roll call vote, Mr. Caron-Aye, Mr. Ryan-Aye, Ms. Winston-Aye, Mr. DeNapoli-Aye and Mr. Denneen-Aye.

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The Board moved out of executive session.

MOTION moved by Mr. Ryan to adjourn at 10 pm seconded by Ms. Winston, VOTED 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

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Catherine Winston, Clerk